

**From:** R. Cannefax  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

My understanding is that a agreement had been reached to between Microsoft the Federal Government and a number of individual States. It appears the settlement was a fair means to resolve a problem which I and many other still do not clearly understand. A big portion of the computer users throughout the world are Microsoft software users. Microsoft developed and continues to enhance and improve on the basic operating system used in PCs and in most laptops.

Why they have a competitive edge is tied to the risk they took at the very onset of their venture and further tied to continuous improvement of their product, exceptional marketing and arrangements with manufacturers to put their software on many new PCs. Has competition been stifled? I think not. Those who desire to compete can find ways to do so effectively. Those who don't should be allowed to quietly go out of business. As an operator of a small search engine, I could begin trying to make a case with my elected officials that AOL or Yahoo! had a competitive advantage and one of them may be operating as a monopoly, forcing me to not be able to compete effectively in an open market case. Sure, I could make that case as could a number of other smaller search engines, but I do not feel that such an issue is in the best interest of the general public. The AOL product is inferior and problem fraught, yet they have the majority of the Internet business in respect to search engines services, ISP services and e-mail.

All that said, I would like to make the point that I am opposed to the Microsoft case being reopened and drug through the courts. We are in a time of national, if not global financial unrest and I do not think such action is to the benefit of the general public. I believe the special interest groups need to take a back seat to the current economic conditions and let Microsoft move forward. Realistically, could we deal with another 500,000 or more layoffs? Could it be those who are pushing for reopening the Microsoft case are just trying to hang on to their positions in order to avoid what's taking place across the US and globally, a general reduction in force.

I propose we let Microsoft move forward, use their talented, highly paid staff to produce software solutions that will make computers even easier for my wife and her friends to use and lets keep the cost of this battle in check.

Please feel free to reply to this e-mail should you have any questions, concerns or comments.

Thank you,  
Raymond Cannefax

President & COO  
eCom Only, Inc.